

## STUDENTS

### Searches of Students and Student Privacy

#### Searches of Students and Personal Property

Personal privacy is a fundamental aspect of individual liberty. All students possess the constitutional right to be secure in their persons, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures. Staff will take particular care to respect students' privacy.

School officials have authority to maintain order and discipline in the schools and to protect students from exposure to illegal drugs, weapons, and contraband. The superintendent, the principal, and other staff designated by the superintendent have the authority to conduct reasonable searches on school property in accordance with the law. Any authorized school official will conduct searches according to the procedure associated with this policy.

#### Student Privacy

##### Adult Students, Emancipated Minors, and Confidential Health Information

State law provides that at certain ages, students attain the right to decide for themselves what records will remain confidential, even from their parents, and what activities the student will participate in. At age eighteen students become legal adults and must approve any disclosure of information about themselves from school records, except directory information if a request for confidentiality has not been filed. Students at age eighteen may also sign releases, authorizations or permission slips to participate in school activities, and may sign themselves out of school and authorize their own absences.

Students between sixteen and eighteen who have been granted legal emancipation from their parents or guardians have the same rights as eighteen year old students.

Students over fourteen years of age have the right to keep private from everyone any district records indicating that they have been tested or treated for a sexually transmitted disease. Students thirteen years and older have confidentiality rights in records regarding drug, alcohol or mental health treatment.

All students have confidentiality rights in family planning or abortion records.

Cross References:	Policy 3414 Policy 3231	Infectious Diseases Student Records
Legal References:	RCW 13.64.060 RCW 28A.320.040 RCW 28A.600.020  RCW 28A.600.210-240 WAC 180-40-215	Power and capacity of emancipated minor Bylaws for board and school government Government of schools, pupils, employees, rules and optimum learning atmosphere. School official searches of student lockers Student rights
Management Resources:	Policy News, June 1999	School safety bills impact policy

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**PORT TOWNSEND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 50**